

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claim 1 based on the disclosure, for example, in paragraphs [0023], [0024], [0028] and [0029] of the application.

Claims 9, 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on U.S. Patent No. 6,388,759 (Yoshida), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0039481 (Suzuki) and Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-023565 (Fukuda) in view of the “well known art.” Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 9 states that the plurality of input apparatuses includes at least one input apparatus that is suitable for use by a disabled person and another input apparatus that is suitable for use by an able-bodied person and that the controller determines a longer automatic-clear time for the input apparatus that is suitable for use by a disabled person than for the input apparatus that is suitable for use by an able-bodied person. Claim 9 has been amended to state that the input apparatus that is suitable for use by a disabled person and the input apparatus that is suitable for use by an able-bodied person have different input mechanisms that accept different types of user inputs. In one embodiment of the claimed invention, a keyboard is used as the input apparatus for normal persons, and a mouse or a joystick is used as the input apparatus for the disabled. See paragraphs [0023] and [0028] of the specification.

In the previous Amendment, applicants explained that neither Yoshida nor Fukuda discloses or suggests the limitation that the apparatuses includes at least one input apparatus that is suitable for use by a disabled person and another input apparatus that is suitable for use by an able-bodied person. In the pending Action, the Examiner relies on Suzuki for the teaching of this limitation. Specifically, the Examiner contends that Suzuki’s user interface unit 400 corresponds to the claimed input apparatus that is suitable for use by the disabled and Suzuki’s user interface unit 300 corresponds to the claimed input apparatus that is suitable for use by normal persons. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Suzuki’s interface unit 300 is placed horizontally at a height of 0.9 to 1 meter so that a normal person can operate the interface in a standing posture. On the other hand, Suzuki’s

interface unit 400 is placed vertically at the side of Suzuki's apparatus so that a person in a wheelchair or a short person (such as a child) can view and operate Suzuki's interface unit 400. See paragraphs [0039] and [0040] of Suzuki. The Examiner's position is that Suzuki's interface units 300 and 400 are different in operability because they are placed at different heights. However, this is the only difference between Suzuki's interface units 300 and 400.

Suzuki explains that "[t]he second user interface unit (or the second user interface portion) indicated by 400 is placed generally vertically on the right-hand side of the main body of the copying machine and has *the same functions* as the first user interface unit 300" and that the functions keys in both interface units 300 and 400 are "*identical* to each other." (Emphasis added). See paragraphs [0020] and [0035] of Suzuki. Suzuki further explains that the reason for having the identical input functions in interface units 300 and 400 is "if the used keys, the key layouts, the displays and the like differ between the first and second user interface units 300 and 400, a user will confuse operations related to the keys and the displays." See paragraph [0035] of Suzuki. Suzuki also explains that "[t]his arrangement ensures that a user can easily understand that the first and second user interface units 300 and 400 are the same and are operated in the same manner, thus improving the usability." *Id.* Accordingly, the input mechanisms of Suzuki's interface units 300 and 400 are identical.

Claim 9 requires that the input apparatus that is suitable for use by a disabled person and the input apparatus that is suitable for use by an able-bodied person have different input mechanisms that accept different types of user inputs. Suzuki fails to disclose or suggest this limitation, as explained above. Neither Yoshida nor Fukuda discloses the claimed input apparatuses that are suitable for use by normal and disabled persons with different input mechanisms. The Examiner does not contend that the "well known art" discloses this limitation.

The rejection of claims 9, 13 and 14 under 35 USC 103(a) on Yoshida, Suzuki, Fukuda and the "well known art" should be withdrawn because they do not teach or suggest the claimed input apparatuses having different input mechanisms.

The remaining obviousness rejections rely on Yoshida, Suzuki, Fukuda and the “well known art” and thus should be withdrawn as well because they do not provide the teachings for which they are cited.

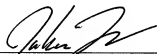
In light of the above, a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952**, referencing Docket No. **325772033200**.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 23, 2011

By:



Takamitsu Fujii
Registration No. 63,971
Morrison & Foerster LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard, Suite 400
McLean, VA 22102-3915
Telephone: (703) 760-7751
Facsimile: (703) 760-7777